IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Hereafter, the present invention is described more particularly by way of its preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings. Referring first to FIG. 1, there is schematically shown general layout of a typical ultrasound endoscope in which the present invention has been advantageously incorporated. In this figure, indicated at 1 is a manipulating head assembly to be gripped by an operator, at 2 an insertion instrument to be introduced into a body cavity of a patient, and at 3 a universal cable. From proximal to fore end, the insertion instrument 2 is composed of an elongated flexible body section 2a, an angle section 2b and a rigid tip end section 2c. The flexible body section 2a has a flexible body structure which is bendable in arbitrary directions along a path of insertion toward a patient's body cavity. The rigid tip end section 2c has a rigid structure to support thereon an endoscopic observation means 4 along with an ultrasound examination means 5. The angle section 2b is provided between the flexible body section 2a and the rigid tip end section 2c and manipulated by an angle section operating means 6 on the manipulating head assembly 1 to turn the rigid tip end section into a desired direction. Further, as described in greater detail hereinafter, an exit opening 29 of a biopsy channel is provided on the rigid tip end section 2c. Although not shown in the drawings, other buttons and switches are provided on the manipulating head assembly 1 for controlling the operation of the endoscope.